

**Clean Version of Replacement Paragraphs/Sections/Claims**

In the Claims

Please cancel all currently pending claims (claims 1-15) and add the following new claims:

16. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material including an intumescent material and an organic binder, comprising the steps of:

- a' B
- (a) providing a mixture of intumescent material and organic binder in a substantially volatile free state,
  - (b) mixing the mixture at high shear conditions.

Sub B2 17. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 16, wherein said binder comprises at least one of a thermoplastic and a thermosetting polymeric material.

B 18. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 16, wherein said binder is a halogen-free organic binder.

Sub B3 19. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 16, wherein said binder comprises at least one of an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, a synthetic or natural rubber, and mixtures thereof.

B 20. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 16, wherein said intumescent material comprises water insoluble mineral granules.

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cont.

21. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 16, wherein said intumescent material comprises a mixture of hydrated alkali metal silicate and at least one of oxy boron compound, expandable graphite, and mixtures thereof.

22. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 16, wherein said intumescent material comprises a mixture of hydrated alkali metal silicate and at least one oxy boron compound.

23. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 16, wherein said intumescent material comprises expandable graphite.

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24. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 16, wherein the intumescent fire barrier material further comprises a flame retardant.

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25. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 24, wherein said flame retardant comprises at least one of a phosphorus containing material, a nitrogen containing material, and mixtures thereof.

26. (New) A method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material as defined in claim 25, wherein said phosphorous containing material contains ammonium polyphosphate.

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Remarks

Claims 1-15 have been canceled and claims 16-26 have been added. Claims 16-26 now stand in the application.